

**MINUTES OF THE 2015 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**

**Courtyard Marriott, Carolina Beach, North Carolina
February 25, 2015**

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: President Brena Jones called the business meeting to order at 11:49 p.m. and received confirmation from Secretary-Treasurer Todd Ewing that enough members were present to constitute a quorum.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME: President Brena Jones welcomed chapter members and visitors to the business meeting. She acknowledged President-Elect Kim Sparks for organizing a great annual meeting. President Jones then welcomed Mr. Dave Coughlan, [President-Elect of the Southern Division](#) of the American Fisheries Society. She also recognized all past-presidents of the Southern Division and Chapter who were present.

AFS PARENT SOCIETY UPDATE: 2014 NCAFS President Brena Jones participated in 2nd annual AFS Leadership Conference Call in early December of 2014. [AFS staff in the Bethesda, MD office](#) are extremely motivated and interested in unit and chapter member feedback regarding how AFS can better serve its membership.

The AFS website will also be launching an update with new resources, including reference materials such as an eDNA clearinghouse.

AFS Past-President and NCAFS Member John Boreman was unable to attend the 2015 NCAFS Meeting, but relayed that he is the incoming AFS Constitutional Consultant and can provide assistance/guidance to chapters interested in amending bylaws, as well as provide updates at future NCAFS Chapter Meetings.

SOUTHERN DIVISION UPDATE: SDAFS President-Elect Dave Coughlan provided an update from the Southern Division. The current SDAFS EXCOM is composed of President Dennis Riecke, Dave Coughlan as President-elect, Wes Porak of FL as Vice-President, Kim Bonvechio of FL as Secretary-Treasurer, and John Jackson of AR as Past President.

Dave offered [congratulations to the NCSU SFS for again winning the SDAFS Student Sub-Unit of the Year](#) award!! He then advised that our colleagues in Alabama are attempting to re-activate the Alabama AFS Chapter.

The [recent SDAFS Meeting, hosted by the Georgia Chapter](#), was a huge success! They had 700 registrants. Of those 700 attendees, 244 were students and 30 of those were undergrads! There were 257 talks and 64 posters. The profit was approximately \$17,000!

Future SDAFS meetings are as follows:

[2016 - Wheeling, WV](#)

2017 - Oklahoma

The SD EXCOM has been updating the SDAFS Procedures Manual by removing dated materials and making it more reflective of the way things are currently, or actually, done. Hopefully the Procedures Manual will be finished by this spring.

Dave also provided a few tidbits from the AFS. AFS has a new Briefing Book format that they are using and the SD will begin to use this in 2015. It is more data driven and President Riecke will send out the template when he asks for Briefing Book Reports later this year.

[AFS is offering some nice services](#) to make the Chapters and the Southern Division more successful. They will provide their teleconferencing number to Chapters and Divisions for AFS-related calls. Similarly, they encourage Chapters and Divisions to use their Deluxe Version of Survey Monkey for elections or surveys. Please [contact Shawn Johnston](#) at AFS for more details about this. There are also services related to financial investment, hotel contract negotiation, etc. but please call AFS for the complete story.

The [2015 AFS Meeting is in Portland Oregon](#). 2016 is in Kansas City; 2017 is in Tampa; 2018 is in Atlantic City; 2019 is a potential joint meeting with the Wildlife Society; and rumor has it that Charleston, SC is hoping to snag the 2020 meeting!

SEAFWA 2015: Todd Ewing invited all attendees to the [69th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies](#) (SEAFWA). The conference will be held November 1 through November 4, 2015 at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel in Asheville, North Carolina. Anyone wishing to present, submit a manuscript for publication, or propose a symposium should refer to the SEAFWA website (www.seafwa.org).

2014 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES: President Jones indicated that the [minutes from the NCAFS 2014 Business Meeting](#) were distributed in the March 2014 Newsletter as well as posted on the Chapter website and that the minutes needed to be approved. President Jones reported that that no additions or corrections to the minutes were received by Secretary-Treasurer Ewing. Therefore, President Jones suggested that a motion be made to have the minutes from the 2014 Business Meeting approved. The motion was made by Dave Coughlan, seconded by Mike Swing, and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

***Program and Arrangements Committee:** From Kim Sparks, President Elect* -First, I'd like to acknowledge our sponsor, Duke Energy. It's their generous contribution that allows us to enjoy such a high quality meeting for such a reasonable registration price.

In spite of the difficult weather, we enjoyed our meeting at Carolina Beach with 60 attendees out of 75 registered. Tyler Black and T.R. Russ presented a fun and educational [Crayfish Identification workshop](#) and I'd like to thank them for their time and expertise. I would like to extend a special thanks to Bryn Tracy, who as always, went above and beyond putting together [our excellent program](#). He also arranged for our invited presentation by Dianne Reid. I really appreciate everyone's patience and flexibility with modifying the agenda to accommodate speakers that couldn't make the trip.

I would also like to thank the other members of the EXCOM committee for their advice throughout the whole process, and role in keeping me sane in the last two weeks. I'd like to especially acknowledge Todd Ewing for managing all of the registration logistics, everything from settling the finances with the hotel and printing out the name tags we've worn for the last two days. And also Brena Jones, who has done so much to take our website to the next level and developed [our new on-line registration system](#).

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of you. It was amazing to get so many abstracts before the abstract deadline – you may have noticed we didn't need to extend the deadline this year. I was also overwhelmed by the number of people who approached me and offered to help. It really was a pleasure to plan this meeting at the beach. Thank you for making it a success!

Communications Committee Report: From Brena Jones, Committee Chair- The NCAFS Newsletter Committee has been renamed the Communications Committee and its responsibilities and membership have been expanded to include all online media, including the Chapter website and [Facebook page](#). Previously, these entities have been operating somewhat independently, so this change was initiated to increase both efficiency of use and opportunities for member interaction, recruitment, and increasing online visibility, thereby increasing the ability to share information with the general public. Newsletter compilation, editing, and distribution will continue as a component of this committee.

The NCAFS Procedures Manual has been updated to reflect these changes, approved by EXCOM, and is available on our website. The current Newsletter Editor, Kevin Hining, will remain Chair of the Committee; members include the Chapter Webmaster, Brena Jones, the Chapter Facebook administrator, Jennifer Archambault, and Kelsey Lincoln. In addition, Dave Coughlan, Bryn Tracy, and Ben Ricks are members as Newsletter Reviewers.

Brena Jones has accepted the transfer of Webmaster duties from Kim Sparks and has built the new Chapter website on a platform and server hosted and offered to all Chapters free of charge by the Parent Society. By migrating the site and all content to this larger and more modern platform, the NCAFS site will now be coordinated and integrated with the entire Parent Society network. This allows the AFS Webmaster to share content directly to the Chapter page, such as [the monthly issue of Fisheries Magazine](#), as well as provide support and facilitate information sharing between all member states/nations.

The new NCAFS website was officially launched in January of 2015. Development of additional resources is an ongoing part of the transitional process, but the current ability to host all member/meeting registration, payments, polls, and news in one place is already an improvement for both Committee and EXCOM members. In addition, [live editions of Chapter newsletters](#) are available on our News & Updates page, so downloads are not required, although a traditional .pdf version will continue to be made available.

Still in development are pages including a clearer pipeline for submission of Environmental Concerns issues from membership, and a student resource page. The Committee would also like to include a member from NC State University's Student Fisheries Society and that group has been notified.

The Webmaster is **still in search of any older meeting programs** or other archive documents [that are not currently posted here](#). If you have any, either in paper or electronic formats, please email brena.jones@ncwildlife.org.

Newsletter Editor Kevin Hining mentioned that the Communications Committee, also comprised of Brena Jones, Dave Coughlan, Bryn Tracy, and Ben Ricks succeeded in assembling and [e-publishing four quarterly newsletters in 2014](#) comprised of 94 pages, 50 articles, and 6 spotlights on students and young professionals. Editor Hining thanked all the contributors for continuing to provide information for the newsletter, as well as the student and young professionals that allowed spotlights to be made about them. If anyone has anything they would like to see included, or new ideas regarding the newsletter format, etc., please call or email Kevin Hining at kevin.hining@ncwildlife.org , 336-877-1087.

Environmental Concerns Committee: *From Ben Ricks, Committee Chair-* The Environmental Concerns Committee has been fairly quiet over the last year. We endorsed a letter sent by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation to the Environmental Protection Agency supporting revisions of Clean Water Rule Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880. The EEC discussed the possibility of writing a letter in regards to the Duke Power coal ash spill but we did not pursue it further. **If anyone has concerns they would like to address** please notify ben.ricks@ncwildlife.org and we would like to get you involved in the EEC to help address the issue.

Education and Outreach Committee: *Chris Wood, Committee Chair-* This year the Education and Outreach Committee worked with Tyler Black and T.R. Russ to organize an excellent Continuing Education workshop on Crayfish ecology and identification for the 2015 NCAFS meeting. Over 30 Chapter members participated and had the opportunity to learn about native and invasive crayfish.

Education and Outreach Committee members assisted the Southern Division with podcasting the 2015 SDAFS meeting in Savannah, GA. This was a great opportunity for our Chapter to participate at the Division level. The 2015 NCAFS Chapter meeting was also podcasted and should be available in a few months. We will post them on the NCAFS website as soon as possible.

Education and Outreach Committee members were judges at the STEAM Science Fair in McDowell County this past winter. Over 100 young scientists from second grade to high school displayed experiments and inventions. Committee members awarded a certificate to the project best representing the conservation and scientific values of the American Fisheries Society. The project that won was titled "Effects of Cell Phones on Honey Bee Populations". The author was a 7th grade student from Marion, NC.

Secretary-Treasurer Report, Registration and Finance Committee: Chair Todd Ewing presented the annual financial records report. He also reported that the NC Chapter finances look good. Registration and donations for the 2015 annual NC Chapter meeting covered the cost of the annual meeting for the first time in several years. Investments continue to perform well.

Awards Committee: Chair John Crutchfield submitted notes from his Awards Committee presentation.

The NC AFS Chapter established a Student Travel Award Program in 2005 for the specific purpose of encouraging professional growth of students and maximal participation of undergraduate and graduate students at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society. Monetary support is provided to qualifying students via a travel award of \$200 to \$400 to help defer the cost of meeting travel, registration, and accommodations. The [2014 award was presented to two NC State students](#) to attend the annual American Fisheries Society meeting held in Québec City on August 17-21, 2014. The award winners were Tomas Ivasauskas, advised by Dr. Tom Kwak, and Paul Rudershausen, advised by Dr. Jeff Buckel. Tomas and Paul each received a cash award of \$400 from the Chapter's Ichthus Fund account, which was established specifically to foster student involvement. Interested students (and their advisors) are encouraged to participate in the program. Interested individuals should see the Award Applications page at <http://nc.fisheries.org/awards/forms-applications/> for more details.

The Committee recruited judges and conducted the judging for the Richard L. Noble Best Student Paper Award and the W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Paper Award at the 2015 meeting. There were six presentations by students and ten presentations by professionals. Student papers were judged by Dave Coughlan, Tyler Black, Brena Jones, and Bryn Tracy. The professional papers were judged by John Crutchfield, Reid Garrett, Matt McKinney, and Neil Medlin.

The Award Committee solicited nominations for the Chapter's Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award and Distinguished Service Award in the December 2014 Chapter newsletter. One nomination was received for the Fisheries Conservation Award, and one individual was nominated for the Distinguished Service Award. These nominations were reviewed and endorsed by the Awards Committee and forwarded to the EXCOM for approval. Both individuals received the awards. These awards were presented to these well-deserving individuals at the 2015 Chapter annual business meeting held in Carolina Beach, NC, on February 25, 2015.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service to the Chapter, the American Fisheries Society, or the fisheries profession. In 2015, a recommendation was made to the Awards Committee and unanimously passed by Chapter EXCOM to rename the Award to the [Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award](#). Jerry, who passed away due to cancer during 2013, epitomized selfless dedicated service to the NC AFS Chapter and the Southern Division of AFS. Jerry provided invaluable IT support to the Chapter and Southern Division on developing and maintaining websites to publicize fisheries efforts in North Carolina and the Southeast. He was responsible for ensuring presentations at Chapter meeting went off without a hitch. Jerry also developed the Chapter's online dues and meeting registration system. The Chapter will remain forever indebted for his volunteer service.

[The renaming of the Distinguished Service Award was presented to Chapter membership at the 2015 business meeting and was unanimously approved.](#)

The 2015 Jerry R. Finke Distinguished Service Award was presented to Mr. Bryn Tracy for his dedicated and unwavering support of the NC AFS Chapter and Southeastern Fisheries Council, his mentoring of fishery students, and his committed efforts over the years to protect and conserve fishery resources in North Carolina.

The [Fred A. Harris Fisheries Conservation Award](#) recognizes non-Chapter members who have distinguished themselves by service or commitment to the Chapter or to the fisheries resources of North Carolina. The 2015 award was presented to Dr. JoAnn Burkholder, William Neal Reynolds Professor of Applied Ecology at North Carolina State University and Director of NC State's Center for Applied Aquatic Ecology.

Dr. Burkholder is a broadly trained aquatic ecologist who has embodied excellence in research, academics, and public outreach for over 28 years. She firmly believes that the protection and management of our aquatic natural resources can only be achieved by using the strongest, objective science possible, and she works tirelessly to ensure that the best science is produced and can be translated and used by policy makers and the general public alike.

Dr. Burkholder's research interests focus on algal nutritional physiology and ecology and her work spans the salinity gradient from freshwater to estuarine and marine species, but most notably, she addresses the pervasive issue of chronic eutrophication (nutrient over enrichment and associated pollutants) of our aquatic ecosystems. She has contributed significantly to the understanding of algal and submerged aquatic vegetation population dynamics and their relation to nutrient and other pollutants in North Carolina, especially in the Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers, across the southeastern U.S., and throughout the world. Dr. Burkholder has received numerous awards and honors for her significant contributions to the aquatic ecology field.

She has authored or co-authored over 160 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles, numerous books, book chapters, technical reports, and popular press articles on topics ranging from algal dynamics and SAV to nutrients and fish kills. Additionally, Dr. Burkholder and her students and colleagues have made over 250 scientific presentations at scientific conferences and symposia. Dr. Burkholder has supported fisheries and aquatic science education and professionalism through her extensive classroom and "field laboratory" teaching and in the mentoring of 20 graduate students (10 M.S., 10 Ph.D.) during her career. She has also served on graduate committees of an additional 34 students (14 M.S., 20 Ph.D.). She is known for leading by example and is responsible for launching the successful careers of many talented aquatic ecologists throughout the nation.

The Chapter recognizes Dr. Burkholder's dedicated and unwavering support to aquatic resource conservation and her exceptional research, instruction, mentoring of fisheries and aquatic science students, and service to her state and nation.

The 2015 [Richard L. Noble Best Student Paper Award](#) was awarded to Crystal Lee Powell for the paper entitled "Relating the Incidence of Intersex in Centrarchid Fishes to Estrogenic Contaminant Concentrations across North Carolina". The paper was coauthored by Mac Law, Thomas Kwak, Damian Shea, Gregory Cope, James Rice, Seth Kullman, and Derek Aday. Crystal will receive a monetary award of up to \$600 from the Chapter's Ichthus fund for travel to present the paper at the 2015 parent society meeting in Portland, Oregon.

The 2015 [W. Don Baker Memorial Best Professional Award](#) was awarded to Kevin Hining for the paper entitled "Contribution of Black Crappie Fingerlings Stocked into Lake Hickory, 2007–2012". The paper was co-authored by David Yow and Kin Hodges.

NCSU Student Subunit: From Casey Grieshaber, NCSU Subunit President- The [Student Fisheries Society at NCSU](#) was doing well. We made over \$1,200 with the raffle. We have a lot of activities and meetings scheduled which anyone is welcome to attend. Also, we have social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

INSTALLATION OF [NEW OFFICERS](#): President Brena Jones expressed her thanks to Past President Greg Cope for his guidance and support over the past three years and relieved him of his duties. Brena recognized Bryn Tracy as the new Secretary/Treasurer replacing Todd Ewing. Brena then welcomed President Elect Mike Gangloff to the Executive Committee and passed the presidency to Kim Sparks.

President Sparks then presented a certificate of appreciation to Brena Jones for her service and work as president.

INCOMING PRESIDENT’S REMARKS: *From Kim Sparks, Incoming President- When it was announced that you had elected me president last year, I thought what I suspect many past presidents have thought - “How did this happen?” I believe that I can trace it all back to the phone call I got from Chad Thomas in 2001 asking me to run for Secretary/Treasurer.*

My initial reaction to his request was that there must be any number of people who could serve in that position and do a better job than I could. But then he said “Kim, I think this would be a really good opportunity for you”, and I couldn’t argue with that. I was so pleased to serve you in that capacity and I really enjoyed the things I got to learn about and work on during my term as Secretary/Treasurer. It encouraged me to stay active in the Chapter through various roles since then. What this has taught me is that you can tell you have pursued a good opportunity when you find yourself doing something a little outside your comfort zone, and also that willingness to serve can take you a long way.

So today I assume my Presidency, certain that any number of people could do a better job at this than I can. But I am willing, and very honored, to serve you in this way. Thank you for this opportunity.

President Sparks asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Todd Ewing, Secretary-Treasurer, March 24, 2015

2015 NCAFS Business Meeting Treasury and Investment Summary

Account Balances January 1, 2014	
Checking	\$1,891.26
Savings	\$2,915.66
Edward Jones Account 1	\$33,126.75
Edward Jones Account 2	\$37,874.65

Account Balances January 1, 2015	
Checking	\$3,280.35
Savings	\$2,882.84
Edward Jones Account 1	\$32,598.67
Edward Jones Account 2	\$41,569.00

NCAFS Checking Account

<u>Expenses/Checks Written</u>	
Membership for Chapter President	\$80.00
Meeting Supplies	\$45.64
Meeting Supplies	\$194.28
Annual Meeting Payment	\$2,727.67
Payment for Chapter Awards	\$175.00
Donation to the Hightower F&W Endowment	\$500.00
Transfer to Savings	\$2,000.00
Deposit for 2015 Annual Meeting	\$150.00
Paypal Fee	\$20.00
AFS Meeting Insurance	\$150.00
Donation to support SE Fishes Council Meeting	\$200.00
SDAFS Travel support for Chapter President	\$700.00

<u>Income/Deposits to Checking</u>	
Meeting Registrations and Membership Dues	\$683.00
Transfer from Savings	\$2,000.00
Transfer from Paypal	\$4,879.64
Dues from AFS	\$553.00
Reimbursement from Parent Society	\$170.40

Checking Account Balance January 1, 2015	\$3,280.35
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NCAFS Savings Account

Expenses

Transfer to Checking	\$2,000.00
Service Fees	\$34.00

Income

Interest	\$1.73
Transfer from Checking	\$2,000.00
Savings Account Balance January 1, 2015	\$2,882.84

Edward Jones Account 2

Balance January 1, 2014

Cash	\$0.03
Franklin Rising Dividends Fd C	\$15,131.80
Janus Fund CI T	\$5,553.77
Janus Growth & Income Fund T	\$5,924.78
MFS Diversified Income Fund C	\$11,264.27
Total	\$37,874.65

Balance January 1, 2015

Cash	\$0.03
Franklin Rising Dividends Fd C	\$16,476.25
Janus Fund CI T	\$6,263.44
Janus Growth & Income Fund T	\$6,582.66
MFS Diversified Income Fund C	\$12,246.62
Total	\$41,569.00

Edward Jones Account 1 (Ichthus Fund)

Balance January 1, 2014

Money Market	\$7,366.14
Franklin Income Fund CI C	\$13,146.34
MFS Conservative Allocation C	\$12,614.27
Total	\$33,126.75

Expenses from Money Market Account

Best Student Paper and Travel Awards	\$1,400.00
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Balance January 1, 2015

Money Market	\$ 6,751.30
Franklin Income Fund CI C	\$ 13,039.03
MFS Conservative Allocation C	\$ 12,808.34
Total	\$ 32,598.67

Robust Redhorse Conservation Committee Report

Balance January 1, 2014	\$7,420.81
Income	
Interest	\$3.99
Donation from Southern Company	\$3,000.00
Expenses	
Reimbursement to Alice Lawrence for 2014 Meeting Costs	\$3,980.25
Account Balance January 1, 2015	\$6,444.55
